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TAGS: ECAFE

SUBJECT: ECAFE MEETING, BANGKOK, MAY 6-10 IN PREPARATION
FOR WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: UN SYG FOR WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE (EX-MEXICAN FONMIN CARRILLO FLORES) AND ECAFE ARE HOLDING CONFERENCE OF ECAFE GOVERNMENTS BANGKOK MAY 6-10, AS ONE OF FIVE SIMILAR REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS, TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN BUCHAREST AUGUST 19-30. POSTS REQUESTED CONSULT WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS RE PLANS FOR MEETING AND US IDEAS. END SUMMARY.

1. AGENDA FOR ECAFE MEETING, WHICH IS SAME AS FOR WORLD CONFERENCE, CONSISTS OF:

1. RECENT DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.
2. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE AND ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.
3. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN POPULATION, RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT.
4. POPULATION, FAMILY AND HUMAN WELFARE.
5. WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION.

2. ECOSOC RESOLUTION DIRECTS UN SYG TO DRAFT WORLD POPULATION PLAN OF ACTION FOR CONSIDERATION AT BUCHAREST. DRAFT PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED TO GOVERNMENTS FOR ECAFE MEETING.

3. USG REGARDS SECRETARIAT DRAFT AS GOOD BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH IN SUBSTANCE AND AS MORE A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY THAN A PLAN OF ACTION IN FORM. US DEL AT MARCH POPCOM TRIED OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE STRONGER DRAFT MORE CLEARLY STATED AS PLAN FOR ACTION. US DRAFT ATTRACTED VARYING DEGREES SUPPORT FROM MANY MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY ASIANS, AND VARYING DEGREES OPPOSITION FROM OTHERS. NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT TO OBTAIN DESIRED CHANGE IN FORMAT.

4. ATTITUDES ASIAN MEMBERS TOWARD US DRAFT: INDONESIA, JAPAN, THAILAND SUPPORTED IN GOOD STATEMENTS. PHILIPPINES (MERCEDES CONCEPCION) SUPPORTED PRIVATELY BUT AS CHAIRMAN OF POPCOM CONCLUDED NECESSARY PROCEED ON BASIS OF SECRETARIAT'S DRAFT. INDIA ALSO PRIVATELY DECLARED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREFERENCE FOR US FORMULATION BUT PROPOSED A LESSER CHANGE IN POPCOM, ARGUING THAT EFFORT TO MAKE DEEPER CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE AT BUCHAREST. TURKISH DELEGATE STATED PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR US DRAFT BUT DIRECTED BY UN AMBASSADOR SUPPORT SECRETARIAT DRAFT IN VIEW COMPOSITION GOVERNMENT ANKARA. SARDARI, IRAN, NOT MEMBER OF POPCOM IN MARCH, HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED CONCEPT US DRAFT AS PRESENTED NOVEMBER 1973 POPCOM.

5. WE BELIEVE SECRETARIAT IN DRAFTING PLAN OF ACTION HAS GIVEN PRIMARY ATTENTION TO AVOIDING CONFRONTATION WITH SOME SOUTH AMERICANS AND TO OBTAINING CONSENSUS OF NEAR UNANIMITY. FOR THIS REASON DRAFT HAS BEEN SET AT LEVEL OF ACTION BELOW THAT WE BELIEVE MOST COUNTRIES OF ASIA, MANY OF LATIN AMERICA, A FEW IN AFRICA AND MOST IN WESTERN EUROPE WOULD SUPPORT AT BUCHAREST. WE BELIEVE UNANIMITY NOT NECESSARY ON ALL ELEMENTS OF PLAN OF ACTION AND NOT DESIRABLE AT COST OF TOO LOW COMMON DENOMINATOR.

6. OUR PURPOSE AT ECAFE WILL BE TO:

A. OBTAIN SUPPORT OF AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE FOR GENERALLY STRENGTHENING AND TIGHTENING SECRETARIAT DRAFT, INCLUDING SOME STRONGER PROVISIONS (SEE TALKING POINTS BELOW).

B. KEEP ALIVE IDEA OF BETTER FORMAT FOR PLAN OF ACTION, BUT WITHOUT PRESSING SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

C. DEVELOP CONCEPT FOR BRIEFER, CLEARER PLAN CALLED FOR IN RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT POPULATION COMMISSION WHICH INDIA SPONSORED WITH UK AND NETHERLANDS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: CONSULT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONCERNED, USING TALKING POINTS BELOW. CABLE REACTIONS, COPY BANGKOK.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED TALKING POINTS:

1. WE ARE INTERESTED IN VIEWPOINTS LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON WHAT SHOULD AND CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED AT BOTH MEETINGS.

2. WOULD HOPE DISCUSSIONS ON FUNCTIONAL SUBJECTS (POPULATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATION AND DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND FAMILY) WOULD THOROUGHLY EXAMINE POPULATION FACTS, IMPLICATIONS OF POPULATION GROWTH, MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER SUBJECTS AND EFFECT OF THESE SUBJECTS ON POPULATION GROWTH.

3. US IS CONVINCED THAT CONTINUED POPULATION GROWTH AT PRESENT HIGH RATES TENDS RETARD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, INTENSIFY OTHER PROBLEMS, AND ADVERSELY AFFECT THE QUALITY OF LIFE.

4. WE ARE AWARE OF VIEW OF SOME GOVERNMENTS THAT MORE RAPID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WILL SOLVE THEIR POPULATION PROBLEM AND EFFORTS TO SLOW POPULATION GROWTH ARE NOT NEEDED. WHILE THIS IS A SENSITIVE ISSUE WHICH

EACH COUNTRY WILL NEED TO DECIDE ON ITS OWN, WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT BOTH ARE NECESSARY AND COMPLEMENTARY, NEITHER A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE OTHER.

5. BUCHAREST CONFERENCE OFFERS SINGULAR OPPORTUNITY MOUNT GLOBAL ATTACK ON POPULATION PROBLEMS. TO BE SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE SHOULD AVOID TENDENCY TO CONFINE ITSELF TO MERE FORUM FOR DISCUSSION AND DEBATE WITH TEMPTATION TO SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR ALL THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC ILLS UNDER THE GUISE OF TREATING THE POPULATION PROBLEM.

6. HOPE PLAN OF ACTION WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO SERIOUS EFFECTS RAPID POPULATION GROWTH HAS ON FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN, IN MANY COUNTRIES; ON DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND NUTRITION, AVAILABILITY OF EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT.

7. SUPPORT PROVISION NOW IN PLAN OF ACTION THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL ASSURE ALL PEOPLE BY END OF UNDD II AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES TO REALIZE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT TO HAVE INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND MEANS TO DETERMINE FREELY AND RESPONSIBLY NUMBER AND SPACING OF CHILDREN. "RESPONSIBLY" SHOULD MEAN TAKING INTO ACCOUNT WELFARE OF OTHER CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY.

8. ALSO SUPPORT PROVISION NOW IN PLAN OF ACTION ASKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH HIGH BIRTH RATES TO SET GOAL FOR REDUCTION BY 5 TO 10 POINTS PER 1000 BY 1985 BUT BELIEVE SHOULD BE 10 POINTS. (EXAMPLE, FROM 40/1000 TO 30/1000.)

9. THINK IT DESIRABLE PLAN CALL FOR DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO SET GOAL TO ATTAIN REPLACEMENT LEVEL OF FERTILITY BY 1985 AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES TO ATTAIN REPLACEMENT LEVELS OF FERTILITY IN 2 OR 3 DECADES. (THIS MEANS AVERAGE OF 2 CHILDREN PER REPRODUCTIVE FAMILY. EVEN AFTER ATTAINMENT THIS LEVEL, POPULATION OF TYPICAL LDC WILL GROW ABOUT 60 YEARS MORE AND LEVEL OFF AT 250 PERCENT OF PRESENT SIZE. IF NOT ATTAINED FOR 3 DECADES, WILL LEVEL OFF AT 300-350 PERCENT PRESENT SIZE. THUS, IMPORTANT ALL COUNTRIES REACH REPLACEMENT LEVEL ASAP TO CURB ENORMOUS FUTURE GROWTH.)

10. USG RECOGNIZES POPULATION POLICIES ARE MATTERS FOR EACH SOVEREIGN COUNTRY TO DECIDE. NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE OF EFFECTS OF POPULATION GROWTH ON OTHER COUNTRIES IN HIGHLY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD, AGREEMENT ON ADDITIONAL GOALS FOR REDUCING WORLD GROWTH HIGHLY DESIRABLE. WE PROPOSE DROP FROM PRESENT 2 PERCENT PER YEAR TO 1.7 PERCENT BY 1985, INCLUDING LDC DROP FROM AVERAGE 2.5 PERCENT TO 2

PERCENT AND DCS FROM 1 PERCENT TO .6 PERCENT. THESE GOALS
FEASIBLE SINCE 30 LDCS CONTAINING 75 PERCENT OF LDC POPU-
LATION HAVE ALREADY SET SIMILAR GOALS.

11. PLAN OF ACTION SHOULD BE STATED IN FORM MORE USEFUL
TO GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS GUIDES FOR
POLICY AND ACTION. PRESENT DRAFT UNSUITABLE SINCE IS
MORE A DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY THAN PLAN FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION.
APPRECIATE VIEWS OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON HOW TO IMPROVE.

12. DO NOT EXPECT BANGKOK MEETING WILL REDRAFT PLAN. HO-
PE HOWEVER, WILL REACH CONSENSUS ON IMPORTANCE OF STRONG
EFFECTIVE BUT FLEXIBLE PLAN WHICH IN FORM WILL BE CONCISE,
READABLE AND CAPABLE OF IMPLEMENTATION AND IN SUBSTANCE
WILL BOTH TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE COMPLEXITIES AND NATIONAL
DIVERSITIES AND PROVIDE A GUIDE FOR SOUND NATIONAL AND
INTERNATIONAL ACTION. END. KISSINGER

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